



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

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CRAIG CONTINUES SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSIONS

(COLUMBUS)—When Anthony Frazier, co-owner of Columbus-based Urban Chefs, wanted to expand his line of condiments and food products, he needed a low interest loan that would not break his business' bottom line.

“Urban Chefs is a small business with big dreams,” said Frazier. “We needed a group to invest in our future, while giving us the tools we need to succeed in today’s competitive business climate.”

In 2007, Frazier turned to the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) for a microenterprise loan. ECDI provides small loans, in amounts of \$1,000 to \$35,000, to start-up, newly established, or growing small businesses. The City of Columbus provided 75% of Frazier’s \$4,000 loan.

“The small business community is the backbone of our larger economy,” said Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, chair of the City Council Minority and Small Business Development Committee. “My committee is working to ensure that businesses, like Urban Chefs, have access to the capital that will lead to their growth and expansion.”

Craig held the second in a series of community briefings to explore ways the City Council can accelerate small business development. Along with Frazier, the owners of Benny’s Gourmet Lunches and Superior Home Maintenance Company were also on

hand at the ECDI offices along East Mound Street to discuss how their businesses have benefited from the City of Columbus and its partnership with ECDI.

“We are delighted to host this event and feature the successes of our clients,” said Inna Kinney, founder and CEO of ECDI. “Our organization is here to help everyone in the community to acquire assets and pursue a sustainable lifestyle.”

For more information about ECDI and their services, visit www.ECDI.org.

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Pictures attached:

Pic 1) Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig

Pic 2) Anthony Frazier, co-owner of Urban Chefs

(Press release and pictures are authorized for use by members of the media)